

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Canceled.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said providing step includes the step of comparing said second trust rating to a predetermined trust rating threshold and wherein said predetermined criteria comprises said predetermined trust rating threshold.

3. Canceled.

4. (Presently Amended) A method for evaluating a set of credentials comprising at least one group credential in response to a request to access a resource, comprising:
 ascertaining at least one first trust rating within at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings is associated with a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective credential;
 in the event said set of credentials forms a plurality of certification paths having at least one credential in each of said paths, determining for each of said plurality of certification paths a third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the credentials of the respective certification path;
 determining a second trust rating for said set of credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one first trust rating by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

16 ~~providing a signal~~ granting access to the resource in the event said
17 second trust rating satisfies predetermined criteria.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said providing step includes the step
2 of comparing said second trust rating to said predetermined criteria.

6. (Canceled).

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further including the step of granting access to
2 said resource in response to said indication.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said resource comprises a file on a file
2 server.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said resource comprises a web page.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said resource comprises a secure
2 area.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said resource comprises a database.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said ascertaining step
2 further includes the step of obtaining an identity credential trust rating
3 associated with an identity credential within said certification path.

1 13. (Canceled)

1 14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein said access control
2 program further includes program code for comparing said second trust rating
3 to a predetermined trust rating threshold and wherein said predetermined
4 criteria comprises said predetermined trust rating threshold.

1 15. (Canceled).

1 16. (Presently Amended) A system for evaluating a set of credentials including at
2 least one group credential in response to a request to access a resource,
3 comprising:

4 a memory containing an access control program; and

5 a processor operative to execute said access control program;

6 said access control program comprising:

7 program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating within
8 at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including
9 said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings is
10 associated with a level of confidence in information being certified within
11 the respective credential;

12 program code operative in the event said set of credentials forms
13 plural certification paths for~~[[:]]~~ determining for each of said plural
14 certification paths a third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the
15 credentials within the respective certification path;

16 program code for determining a second trust rating for said set of
17 credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one
18 first trust rating by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest
19 trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

20 program code for ~~providing a signal~~ granting access to the
21 resource in the event said second trust rating satisfies predetermined
22 criteria.

17. (Canceled).

1 18. (Presently Amended) A computer program product including a computer
2 readable medium, said computer readable medium having an access control
3 program stored thereon, said access control program for execution on a

processor and operable in response to a request to access a resource,

comprising:

program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating within at least one credential within a set of credentials including group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings is associated with a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective credential;

program code operative in the event said set of credentials forms plural certification paths for determining for each of said plural certification paths a third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the credentials within the respective certification path;

program code for determining a second trust rating for said set of credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one first trust rating by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

program code for ~~providing a signal~~ granting access to the resource in the event said second trust rating satisfies predetermined criteria.

19. (Presently Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave for transmission to a computer, said computer data signal including a computer program executable by the computer for use in evaluating a set of credentials in response to a request to access a resource, said computer program comprising:

program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating within at least one credential within said set of credentials, wherein said set of credentials includes a group credential and wherein each of said first trust ratings is associated with a level of confidence in information being certified within the respective credential;

program code operative in the event said set of credentials forms plural certification paths for determining for each of said plural certification paths a third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the credentials within the respective certification path;

15 program code for determining a second trust rating for said set of
16 credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one first
17 trust rating by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating
18 of said third trust ratings; and

19 program code for ~~providing a signal~~ granting access to the resource in
20 the event said second trust rating satisfies predetermined criteria.

1 20. (Presently Amended) A system for evaluating a set of credentials including at
2 least one group credential in response to a request to access a resource,
3 comprising:

4 means for storing an access control program; and

5 means for executing said access control program out of said storing
6 means, said access control program including:

7 program code for ascertaining at least one first trust rating within
8 at least one of said credentials within said set of credentials including
9 said group credential, wherein each of said first trust ratings is
10 associated with a level of confidence in information being certified within
11 the respective credential;

12 program code operative in the event said set of credentials forms
13 plural certification paths for determining for each of said plural
14 certification paths a third trust rating equal to the lowest trust rating in the
15 credentials within the respective certification path;

16 program code for determining a second trust rating for said set of
17 credentials based, at least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one
18 first trust rating by assigning said second trust rating equal to the highest
19 trust rating of said third trust ratings; and

20 program code for ~~providing a signal~~ granting access to the
21 resource in the event said second trust rating satisfies predetermined
22 criteria.

1 21. (Presently Amended) A method for evaluating a set of credentials comprising at
2 least one group credential in response to a request to access a resource,
3 comprising:

4 ascertaining at least one first trust rating within at least one of said
5 credentials within said set of credentials including said group credential,
6 wherein each of said first trust ratings is associated with a level of confidence in
7 information being certified within the respective credential;

8 in the event said set of credentials forms plural certification paths,
9 determining for each of said plural certification paths a third trust rating equal to
10 the lowest trust rating in the credentials within the respective certification path;

11 determining a second trust rating for said set of credentials based, at
12 least in part, upon an analysis of said at least one first trust rating by assigning
13 said second trust rating equal to the highest trust rating of said third trust
14 ratings; and

15 storing said second trust rating for subsequent use in determining
16 whether to grant access to the resource.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further including the step of inserting said
2 second trust rating stored in said storing step in another group credential.